

Virginia Hey STILL SEXY AT 62!

As *Mad Max* mania grows, the original Warrior Woman couldn't be happier

With her glamazon body, long legs and sky-high cheekbones, it's easy to see why

Aussie actress Virginia Hey caught the eye of director George Miller and landed the Warrior Woman role in the 1981 classic *Mad Max 2*.

The hit film, Virginia's first movie role, was to change her life, forging an international acting career for the woman often referred to as Australia's original supermodel.

'Filming it was one of the happiest times of my life. It's hard to believe that was more than 30 years ago,' says Virginia, now based in the UK.

And it's hard for us to believe Virginia is now 62, as she poses for *New Idea* in a swimsuit, still looking like a top model.

'I think the cheekbones I inherited off Mum have helped.



They hold my face up!' she giggles when asked about her secrets to staying young-looking. 'Smile, it tightens face muscles!'

The release of the new *Mad Max* film, *Fury Road*, 'has brought back so many wonderful memories,' says the star.

Virginia remembers nervously walking in to audition for the role in Sydney back in 1980. 'I'd done lots of commercials, but had ▶

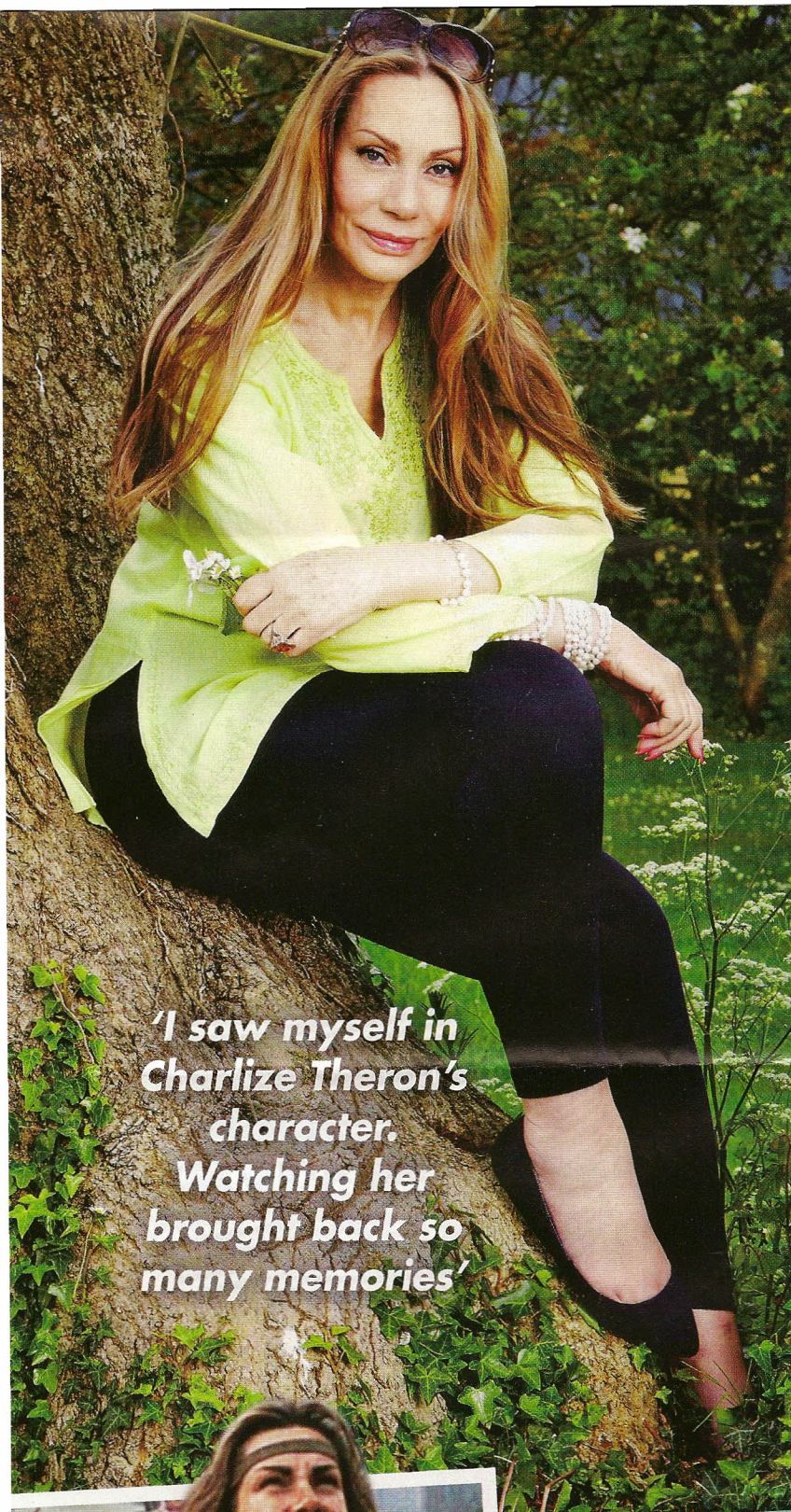
**ROLE
MODEL**



With her slim, toned figure, the Aussie looks as good at 62 as she did in her modelling heyday.



Virginia, who played the original Warrior Woman opposite Mel Gibson (left), says Charlize Theron is 'brilliant' in the role of rebel Imperator Furiosa.



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never been in a film. Luckily, George saw something in me and I won the role of Warrior Woman in his post-apocalyptic thriller.'

And she fondly recalls meeting her co-star Mel Gibson for the first time. 'Everyone said: "You wait until you meet him, he's so charismatic." I thought it was all hype. But then I met him – and he was gorgeous! We all had such massive crushes on him. So lovely to work with, and very, very funny. He had us all laughing.'

Virginia, who remains friends with the actor, adds: 'I'm so disgusted by all the negativity thrown at Mel over these last few years – how easily everyone jumped on the bandwagon of hate. Shame on them!'

Filming was in Broken Hill, NSW, 'a town with one hotel-motel, where we all stayed, a pub, and a few shops. The set was the desert with simple structures built for the scenes. There were no fancy on-site trailers to house the actors the way they do these days. We had an old school bus to go to in-between scenes, where all the actors would sit shivering!'

Virginia says that watching *Fury Road* is an 'emotional' experience for her. 'The film is incredible, it's exhilarating.'

'I saw myself in Charlize Theron's character. Watching her brought back so many memories. Her portrayal is brilliant. I feel so proud to be part of the *Mad Max* family.'

'George, if you're reading this, I'm forever grateful to you for giving me my first acting job and guiding me into this beloved craft that changed my life!'

Virginia, whose screen credits include Bond movie *The Living Daylights* and hit sci-fi series *Farscape*, frequently travels the world to talk at conventions for fans of popular culture. She also manufactures perfumes and soaps, produces meditation CDs, and gives inspirational talks to women keen to feel their best as they age.

'I always say it's worth investing in a rich quality moisturiser as you age,' Virginia reveals. 'And for a youthful glow, try shimmer cream on top of your make-up. Also, having sparkling eyes helps you to stay looking young. That comes from exercise. You have to keep moving, keep interested in the world around you.'

Despite all the strings to her bow, Virginia says acting remains her great love, 'and this year I'm stepping back in. I've just completed one role and have three more in the pipeline. I feel I'm the ideal age to play character roles now!'

Being single, with no children, 'I can hop on a plane at will. The freedom is delicious!' she says.

On the topic of romance, Virginia, whose past loves include the late rock star Michael Hutchence, reveals: 'I haven't been lucky in love. I've been out with some amazing men who broke my heart. I've had enough of that sort of punishment.'

'So, for now, I've given up on romance – it would have to be someone really special to make me change my mind. We'll see!'

By Jacqui Lang
Photos: Nicky Johnston NI



Scan the page
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see Virginia
in the classic
Aussie movie
Mad Max 2.



Virginia's path to stardom

After her debut in *Mad Max 2*, (left) the actress landed roles in Bond movie *The Living Daylights* with Timothy Dalton (right) and *Farscape*, playing Zhaan.

